

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for network security comprising:
receiving a request from a remote address at a host;
observing a behavioral pattern of packets associated with the request;
authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request; and
enabling access to the host by the remote address for a configurable time period if the remote address is authenticated;
wherein the authentication is based at least in part on something other than a valid authentication data being present in the payload of a packet.
2. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 further including preventing a response from being sent to the remote address.
3. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein receiving a request from a remote address at the host further includes receiving a probe.
4. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes recording data received at the host.
5. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes matching the pattern to a list.

6. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes recording a sequence.

7. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes comparing the pattern to a list.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes preventing a response being sent to the remote address if the remote address fails to authenticate.

10. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes denying access to the host if the remote address fails to authenticate.

11. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes sending a message to the remote address if the request fails to authenticate.

12. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein enabling access to the host by the remote address further includes providing access for a configurable amount of time.

13. (Original) A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein enabling access to the host by the remote address further includes implementing a handshake between the remote address and the host.

14. (Currently amended) A system for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration comprising:

a port for receiving a request from a remote address;
a listening module for observing a behavioral pattern of packets associated with the request; and

an agent for authenticating the remote address and the pattern associated with the request and enabling access to the port if the pattern associated with the request is authenticated;
wherein the authentication is based at least in part on something other than a valid authentication data being present in the payload of a packet.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A computer program product for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a request from a remote address at a port;
observing a behavioral pattern of packets associated with the request;
authenticating the request from the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request; and

enabling access by the remote address to the port to initiate a connection if the request is authenticated;

wherein the authentication is based at least in part on something other than a valid authentication data being present in the payload of a packet.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the agent is configured to prevent a response from being sent to the remote address.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein receiving a request from a remote address at the host further includes receiving a probe.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 further including a recording module for recording the received pattern.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 further including a matching module for matching the observed pattern to a list.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes comparing the pattern to a list.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes preventing a response being sent to the remote address if the remote address fails to authenticate.